

16 October 2020

Transport Activities

August 2020 – Air Transport Flash Statistics

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## **Movement in national airports keeps recovery in August, but still with daily reductions over 50% in passengers**

**In August 2020** there was a movement of 2.2 million passengers at national airports, representing a decrease of 65.9%<sup>1</sup> (-79.5% in July). The movement of freight and mail totalled 10.4 thousand tonnes, corresponding to a decrease of 38.9% (-47.8% in July).

The number of passengers disembarked at national airports on flights from the United Kingdom decreased by 69.1% (-85.5% in July), having the announcement of the inclusion of Portugal in the safe travel list (on 20<sup>th</sup> August) contributed to a lower reduction in the number of passengers disembarked between August 21 and 31 (-47.2%), when compared to the decreased recorded between 1 and 20 August (-79.7%).

**Despite the circumstances determined by the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Portugal calls for the best collaboration by companies, families and public entities in responding to Statistics Portugal's data requests. The quality of official statistics, particularly its ability to identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, crucially depends on this collaboration, which Statistics Portugal thanks in advance.**

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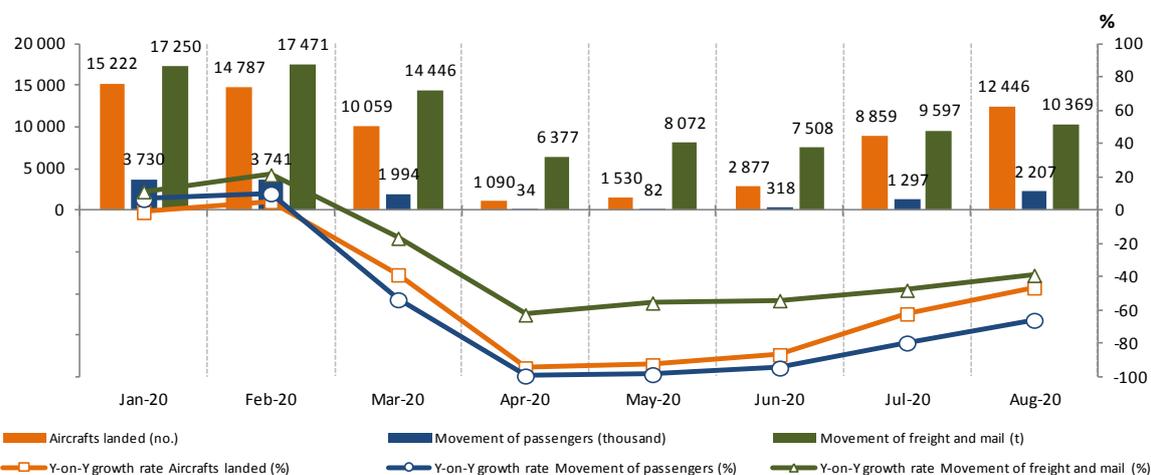
**In August 2020**, 12.4 thousand commercial aircrafts landed at national airports<sup>2</sup>, representing a year-on-year growth rate of -46.4% (-62.0% in July and -86.6% in June). There was a movement of 2.2 million passengers (embarked, disembarked and direct transits), representing a year-on-year growth rate of -65.9% (-79.5% in July and -94.6% in June). The movement of freight and mail at national airports totalled 10.4 thousand tonnes, corresponding to a decrease of 38.9% (-47.8% in July and -54.1% in June).

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<sup>1</sup> Unless stated otherwise, the rates of change presented in this press release are year-on-year rates of change.

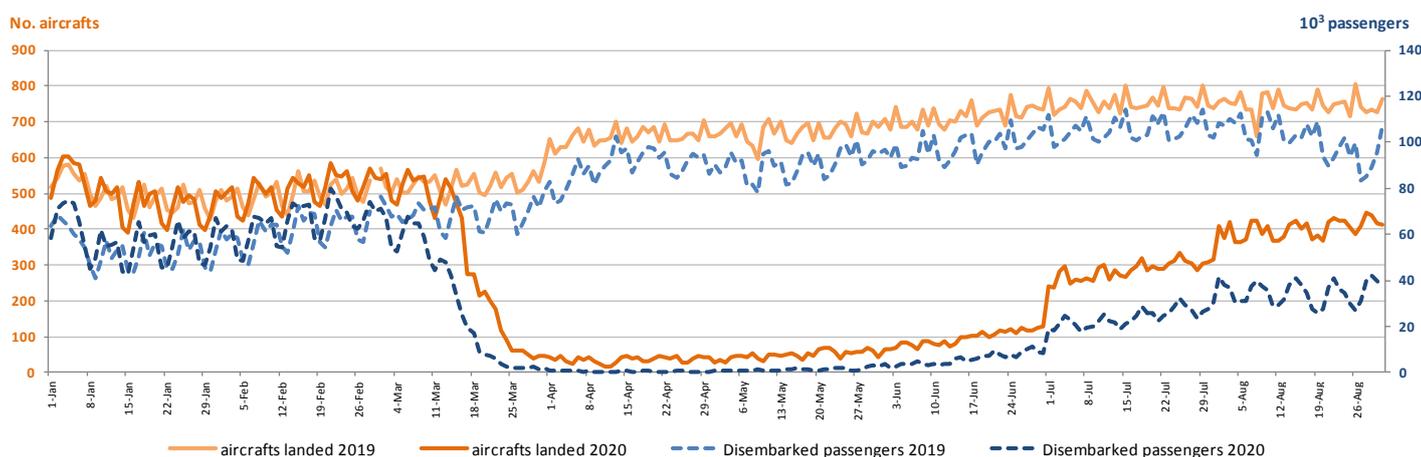
<sup>2</sup> Revised data for landed aircrafts.

**Figure 1 – Aircrafts landed, passengers and freight/mail movement at national airports**



Considering the number of aircrafts landed and the number of passengers daily disembarked between January and August 2020, and comparing with the same period of the previous year, is visible the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted at the airspace level from the beginning of the second fortnight of March, with a slight recovery starting in July, more visible in August, although there are still daily reductions of more than 35% in the number of aircraft landed and 50% in the number of passengers disembarked.

**Figure 2 – Aircrafts landed and disembarked passengers in national airports – daily**

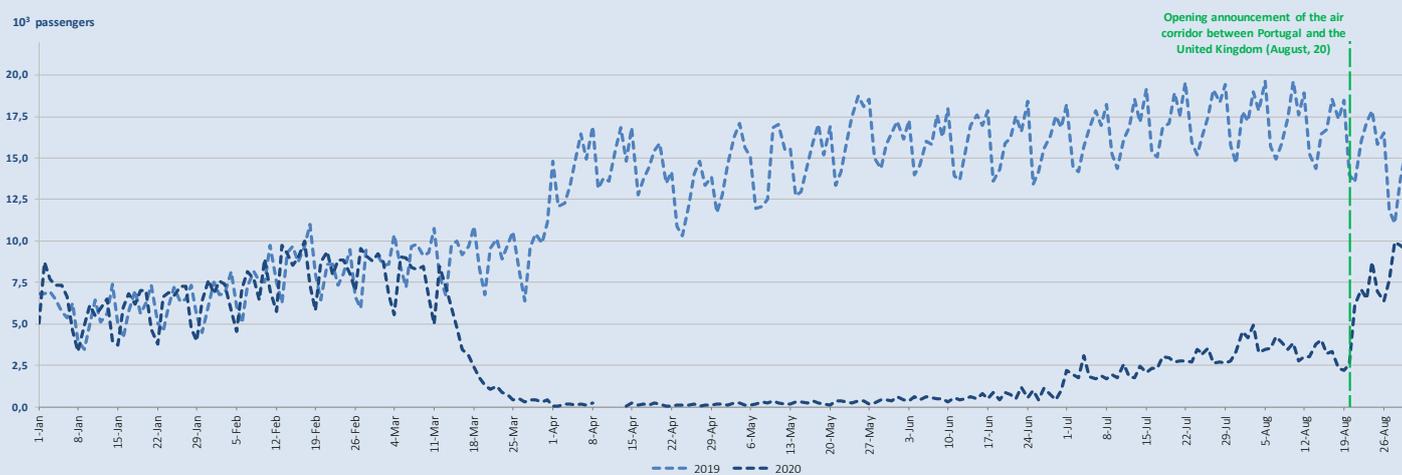


### Daily movement of passengers from the United Kingdom

After the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted at the airspace level from the beginning of the second fortnight of March, between April and June there were reductions of more than 90% in the number of passengers disembarked at national airports on flights from the United Kingdom. The number of passengers decreased by 85.5% in July and by 69.1% in August.

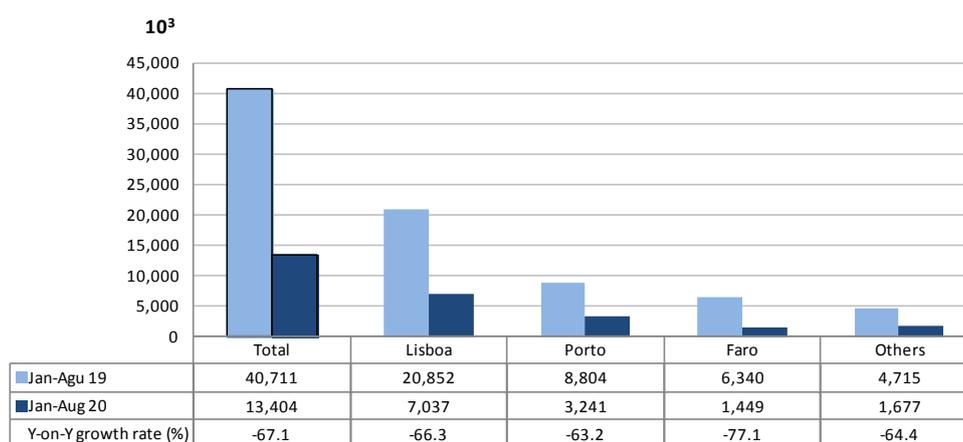
On August 20 it was announced that Portugal was included in the travel safe list, and a smaller reduction in the number of passengers disembarked between days August 21 and 31 was recorded (-47.2%), when compared to the one registered between August 1 and 20 (-79.7%). It is noteworthy that between August 21 and 31, disembarked 55.8% of the total passengers at national airports on flights from the United Kingdom in August 2020 (32.6% in the same period of 2019). Faro airport concentrated 63.0% (59.6% in 2019) of passengers flying from the United Kingdom between 21 and 31 August.

**Figure 3 – Aircrafts landed and disembarked passengers at national airports on flights from the United Kingdom – daily**



Between January and August 2020, 66.9 thousand commercial aircraft landed at national airports (-56.7% compared to the same period in the previous year) and 13.4 million passengers were handled (-67.1%). The movement of passengers in Lisboa airport corresponded to 52.5% of total handled passengers (7.0 million) and recorded a decrease of 66.3%. Considering the three airports with the highest passenger traffic, Faro airport recorded the greatest decrease in the movement of passengers in this period (-77.1%).

**Figure 4 – Movement of passengers at national airports**



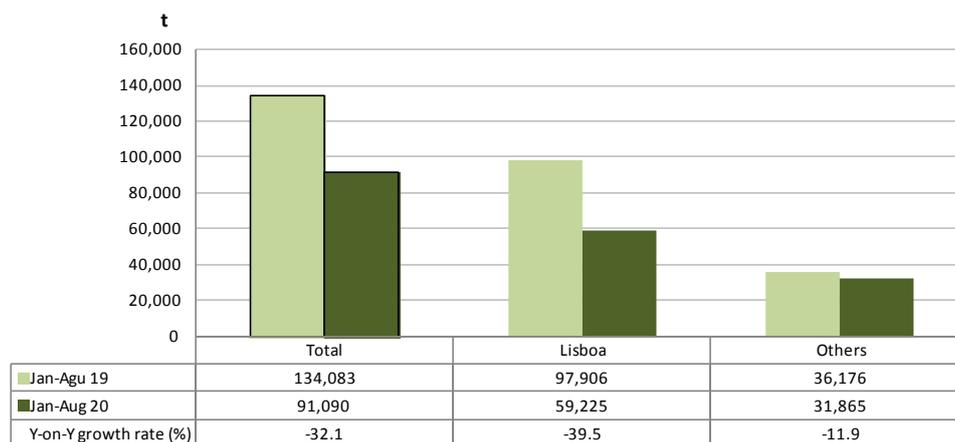
Between January and August 2020, and considering the volume of passengers disembarked and embarked on international flights, France was the main country of origin and destination of flights. The United Kingdom was the second main country of origin and destination and showed the major reduction in the number of passengers disembarked and embarked compared to the same period in the previous year (-74.0% and -74.1%, respectively), despite the recovery registered in August. Germany and Spain swapped positions of the previous month, regarding origin and destination, occupying the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> position, respectively. Switzerland remained in the 5<sup>th</sup> position.

**Figure 5 – Main country of origin and destination of flights with passengers at national airports**

Ranking	Country of origin (of the flight)	Jan to Aug 20		Ranking	Country of destination (of the flight)	Jan to Aug 20	
		Passengers disembarked (10 <sup>3</sup> )	Y-on-Y growth rate (%)			Passengers embarked (10 <sup>3</sup> )	Y-on-Y growth rate (%)
1.ª	France	1038.3	-61.4	1.ª	France	1020.6	-61.3
2.ª	United Kingdom	806.9	-74.0	2.ª	United Kingdom	789.1	-74.1
3.ª	Germany	607.0	-65.5	3.ª	Germany	624.4	-64.4
4.ª	Spain	591.5	-68.4	4.ª	Spain	600.4	-67.6
5.ª	Switzerland	344.9	-54.3	5.ª	Switzerland	356.6	-52.7

Between January and August 2020, there was a decrease of 32.1% in freight and mail movement at national airports, reaching 91.1 thousand tonnes. The movement of freight and mail at Lisboa airport represented 65.0% of the total, corresponding to 59.2 thousand tonnes (-39.5% compared to the same period in the previous year).

**Figure 6 – Freight and mail movement at national airports**



**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

In this "Press Release" the following statistical data are used:

January to August 2019: Definitive results;  
January to August 2020: Preliminary results.

**SOURCES:** Autoridade Nacional de Aviação Civil and ANA – Aeroportos de Portugal, S.A.

**MAIN CONCEPTS:**

**Commercial aviation** - Air transport flight performed for the public transport of passengers, freight or mail, for remuneration and for hire.

**Commercial air traffic** – Movement of aircrafts, passengers, freight and mail in commercial aviation.

Next Press Release "Air Transport Flash Statistics": November 17, 2020

Next Press Release "Transport activities" (3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2020): December 2, 2020